

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

TIMES OF MALTA (CONSERVATIVE) OF AUGUST 27 IN AN EDITORIAL ON THE LIMA MEETING, ENTITLED "NON-ALIGNED PARADOX" COMMENTS:

"ARAB DELEGATES AT THE CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, BEING HELD IN LIMA, PERU ARE MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF OTHER DELEGATIONS IN THEIR ILL-CONCEIVED BID TO EXPEL, OR SUSPEND, ISRAEL FROM MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION.

THE EFFORT IS IN CONTINUATION OF THE CAMPAIGN, STARTED SOME YEARS AGO, TO ISOLATE ISRAEL. AS A RESULT SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE INDUCED TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE JEWISH STATE IN RETURN FOR FINANCIAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE OIL-WEALTHY ARABS.

IT IS HIGHLY INCONGRUOUS THAT THE EXPULSION IDEA HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD AT A "NON-ALIGNED" CONFERENCE, AND EQUALLY REGRETTABLE FOR IT TO COME AT A TIME WHEN A NEW AGREEMENT ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS FROM SINAI IS NEAR AND MAY BE SIGNED THIS WEEK. SOME OF THE ARAB STATES ARE SEEKING TO DRAG OTHER COUNTRIES INTO A MATTER WHICH DOES NOT CONCERN THEM. WHAT IS WORSE IS THAT THESE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO INVOLVE MANY COUNTRIES WHOSE OFFICIAL POLICIES IDENTIFY THEM AS BEING NEUTRAL AND WHO IN MANY CASES MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS.

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IF THE ARAB BID SUCCEEDS AT THE LIMA CONFERENCE IT WILL CERTAINLY CAST DOUBTS ON THE CREDIBILITY OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. IT

WOULD SHOW EXTREME PARTIALITY TOWARDS SOME ARAB COUNTRIES AGAINST THE INTEREST OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. NO SO-CALLED NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY COULD POSSIBLY BE A PARTY TO SUCH PARTIALITY AND EXPECT TO CONTINUE CALLING ITSELF NON-ALIGNED.

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE WEST, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, WILL NOT TAKE LYING DOWN ANY ARAB INITIATIVE ON THIS LINE IN THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS, IN TURN, IS BOUND TO INVOLVE THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION, WHICH HAS ENDURED AS THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL FORUM, IN NEEDLESS SQUABBLE, PERHAPS EVEN LEADING TO ITS BREAK-UP." BIRN

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